[श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव]

भारत सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अब इतना विलम्ब हो चुका है कि और विलम्ब होना ठीक नहीं है इसलिए भारत सरकार कुछ न कुछ उपाय इसके लिए करे।

SHRI J. P. GOYAL (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, on behalf of my party, I support Mr. Gopalsamy.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): The voice from the North should also be added.

REFERENCE TO THE RESENTMENT AMONG THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT HOLDERS DUE TO CHANGE IN THE POST OFFICE SAVING BANK ACCOUNT RULES

SHRI J. P. GOYAL (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I may draw the attention of the Government to the resentment among the Post Office Savings Account Holders due to change in the Post Office Saving Account Rules, 1981. The Government has amended the Post Office Savings Account Rules, 1981 *Inter alia,* sub-rule (i) of rule 8 has been amended. I want to read it to the House. "An account in which a deposit or withdrawal has not taken place in three complete years shall be treated as silent account." Prior to this amendment, the Post Office Savings Account was treated as silent only if the deposit or withdrawal had not taken place for 6 years. Now, six years have been reduced to three years. The rules have not been given wide publicity for the benefit of the account holders. Nor was such a notice displayed in the post offices or at other prominent places for the information of the Savings Account holders who are mostly small savings account holders. This has resulted in rendering lakhs of savings accounts as silent accounts. The account holders have been put to unnecessary inconvenience and are required to open fresh accounts.

This amendment has also been applied to Motor Vehicle Security Deposit Account in the Post Offices. It is well-known that one cannot get a motor vehicle within three years. It takes a lot of time. Therefore, I do not understand why it should be applied to the Motor Vehicle Security Deposit Account. The Government should have given sufficient prior notice to the depositors before bringing this amendment. I would submit that at the most the amendment should be applied prospectively and not retrospectively to the accounts which are already in existence. Sub-rule (ii) of Rule 8 of these Rules reads as follows: "No person shall be allowed to operate the account in respect of a silent account without the prior permission of the relevant head savings account." If three years pass, a silent account cannot be operated. A fresh account has to be opened and it will be only with the permission of the relevant head savings account. This creates difficutlies for the savings account holders. I would submit that this amendment in Rule 8 which has been made, should be withdrawn.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA (Uttar Pradesh) : Madam, with your permission I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighty-Seventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee on "New Delhi-Ambala Coaxial Expansion Scheme".

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Modification in the existing policy on the Manufacture and sale of digital electronic watches in the country

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE

IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : Madam, as part of the "Integrated Policy Measures on Electronics" announced in the Parliament on March 21, 1985, certain amendments in the Industrial and Technology Policy for the Digital Electronic Watches (DEW) were made. Under this policy, Semiconductor Complex Ltd. (SCL) was allowed to manufacture and sell low-cost DEW modules to DEW assemblers, both in the State Pubic Sector and Small Scale units, as well as other units engaged in the manufacture of mechanical watches, handicrafts etc. Also the small scale units were permitted to sell low-cost DEW or other DEW Module-based products directly in the market. If the demand outstripped the capacity of SCL, a second unit in the private sector was to be permitted to manufacture these modules.

For accelerating the growth of the industry, it has now been decided to allow manufacture of Digital Electronic Watches by the organised sector. The revised Industrial and Technology Policy for DEWs is as follows:

(i) Assembly and sale of Digital Electronic Watches would also now be permitted by units in the organised sector, excepting companies with foreign equity exceeding 40 per cent.

(ii) So far as Electronic Modules for Digital Watches are concerned, existing policy of supplies of modules to the industry by M/s. Semiconductor Complex Ltd. would continue.

(iii) In case the demand of the industry exceeds the capacity/supply capability and international pricing level of M/s. Semiconductor Complex Ltd., Industry would be permitted to make in-house arrange ment for manufacture of watch modules for captive consumption if commercial and economic reasons justify it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE) : Now clarifications by Members. Shri Satyanarayan Reddy.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam Vice-Chairman, the Minister in his statement has given the revised Industrial and Technology Policy for digital electronic watches. In this connection, I would like to have some clarifications. Madam, the Minister has said that so far as electronic modules for digital watches are concerned, existing policy of supplies of modules to the industry by M/s. Semiconductor Complex Limited would continue. He further said that in case the demand of the industry exceeds the capacity/supply capability and international pricing level of M/s. Semiconductor Complex Limited, industry would be permitted to make in-house arrangement for manufacture of watch modules for captive consumption if commercial and economic reasons justify it. In this regard, I would like to know as to what is the present position of demand and supply and whether the Government has made any assessment in this regard. In the statement, the Minister said that if the demand outstrips the capacity of SCL, a second unit in the private sector would be permitted to manufacture these modules. I would like to know whether the Government has got any idea of the demand and supply position because in the statement it is not clear. They are going to watch and see what the demand will be, what the supply will be and then only they are going to make some modification. So, it is not clear. I would like to have a clarification.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Madam, I would like to know whether this policy announcement is coming in view of an idea on the part of the Government that they want export promotion of watches because, I am afraid what will be the demand in our country for these digital electro-

[Shri Sukomal Sen]

nic watches? Already Japan are producing and selling in our country also. Taking into account the purchasing capacity of our country, what is the viability of this industry in this country, particularly in our home market? If the Government is thinking of exporting the watches to other countries, then I would like to know how far it will be competitive, what will be the quality, and whether we will be able to compete with Japan and other countries which are already producing these watches.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Madam, with regard to the first question by the hon. Member, let me say that the present production is about 3 lakhs of electronic digital watches. And there is actually at the Semiconductor Complex an excess capacity at the moment. The capacity is not fully utilised because of slack demand. And we have assessed that. The slackness in demand is because of the absence of proper marketing facilities. One of the major reasons for this change in the policy of allowing the assembling and sale in the private organised sector is that this sector will be able to organise marketing facilities much better than anyone else. And therefore, there is actual potential demand. In order to tap this potential demand we need help of the organised sector and we believe that this will push up the demand considerably for using the existing unutilised capacity and there is a probability of even exceeding and that is why we have made this contingency of allowing industry to manufacture modules in-house arrangements.

Madam, with regard to the question of Shri Sukomal Sen while export promotion is one of the objectives of ours at the moment we are trying to tackle the problem of smuggling of digital electronic watches into India which is taking place on a pretty large scale. One of the reasons for this liberalisation of policy is to enable our industry to produce watches in abundance and at a fairly reasonabe low prices so that we could fight the menace of smuggling so that smuggling becomes an uneconomic proposition.

As far as the viability of the industry is concerned, it is certainly a viable industry. The Semiconductor Complex has done excellent work particularly in indigenising the production, producing modules devising the chip as well as some of the significant parts. So this is an eminently viable industry. Now, as regards competition in the international market I think we would be able to meet it by and by. But, at the moment we are concentrating on the domestic market. But ultimately export promotion is one of our objectives.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT—*Contd.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE) : We now resume the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Yes, Shri Thakur.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Madam, my name was to be taken as the first speaker.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE) : You are coming next. You are marked No. 2, after the speaker from the Congress Party. When the House adjourned yesterday, Shri Suraj Prasad concluded his speech. Now, it is the turn of the Congress Party and then yours.

PROF. CHANDRESH PI THAKUR (Bihar): Madam, I rise to speak with pleasure on the programmes and activities of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The initial preparation and the continuing renewal of human factor are the key investments in nation-building. Under the leadership of a scholar and a statesman the Ministry of Human Resource Development has taken imaginative initiatives and is now on the path of implementing them.